

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 03968 140817Z
ACTION NEA-10

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 3968

FOLLOWING RECD FROM MADRAS DATED MARCH 10, 1978 BEING RPTD TO
YOU.

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MADRAS 391

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, IN
SUBJECT: TAMIL NADU NON-GAZETTED OFFICER'S STRIKE CONTINUES

1. ABOUT 750,000 NON-GAZETTED EMPLOYEES (NGO'S) OF THE TAMIL
NADU STATE GOVERNMENT BELONGING TO THE CLERICAL AND OTHER
LOWER CATEGORIES LAUNCHED AN INDEFINITE STRIKE THROUGHOUT
THE STATE ON MARCH 4 TO PRESS THEIR 15-POINT CHARTER OF DEMANDS.
THESE INCLUDE A FIFTY-RUPEE INTERIM RELIEF AND DEARNESS PAY ON
A PAR WITH GOI SCALES. THE STRIKE IS ORGANIZED BY THE NGO
UNION LED BY A DMK MAN, SIVA ILANGO.

2. DESPITE THE STATE GOVERNMENT'S ULTIMATUM THAT IT WOULD
SUSPEND WORKERS FAILING TO REPORT TO WORK BY MARCH 9, WORKERS
BELONGING TO OTHER UNIONS STRUCK AND THE STRIKE CONTINUES WITH
NO APPARENT LET UP. LATEST REPORTS INDICATE THAT OVER 90 PERCENT
OR WORKERS ARE ON STRIKE AND, BARRING THE GOVERNMENT
SECRETARIAT AND THE HIGH COURT IN MADRAS, NORMAL WORK IN THE
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STATE GOVERNMENT OFFICERS AND JUDICIAN COURTS THROUGHOUT
THE STATE REMAINS PARALYZED. (THE EMPLOYEES OF THE SECRETARIAT
AND THE HIGH COURT HAVE HIGHER PAY SCALES.)

3. ALL MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES INCLUDING THE DMK, JANATA,
CONGRESS (I), CPI AND CPM HAVE EXTENDED THEIR SUPPORT TO
THE STRIKERS AND HAVE URGED THE AIADMK GOVERNMENT TO SETTLE

THE ISSUE URGENTLY AND TO WITHDRAW ALL THE "REPRESSIVE"
MEASURES LAUNCHED AGAINST THE STRIKERS.

4. THE STATE CABINET IS REPORTEDLY TAKING A DECISION ON THE
NGO ISSUE ON MARCH 10, WITH AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DECISION
EXPECTED ON MARCH 11. IF THE NGO'S ARE DISSATISFIED WITH THE
GOVERNMENT'S OFFER, THEY MAY INTENSIFY THE AGITATION WITH THE
SUPPORT OF THE OPPOSITION PARTIES. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ISOLATED
INCIDENTS, THE SITUATION HAS BEEN PEACEFUL, BUT IF THE
GOVERNMENT ADOPTS MORE STRINGENT MEASURES AGAINST THE
STRIKERS, VIOLENCE CANNOT BE RULED OUT. AT ANY RATE AIADMK
CHIEF MINISTER M.G. RAMACHANDRAN (MGR) IS FACING ANOTHER
CHALLENGE MORE SERIOUS THAN THE STUDENT AND BUSMEN'S
AGITATION LAST FALL.
MCCASKILL UNQUOTE
GOHEEN

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